FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 31, 2012

CONTACT: Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,

Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us

Labor Day, fall hours announced for Cultural Heritage Center

PIERRE, S.D. – The museum in the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center at Pierre will be open for the Labor Day holiday on Monday, Sept. 3, from 1-4:30 p.m. CDT.

All other offices of the South Dakota State Historical Society in the Cultural Heritage Center, including the archives research room, will be closed Monday.

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 4, the museum will be closing earlier. The hours will be Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sundays and holidays from 1-4:30 p.m.

"The Cultural Heritage Center is open all but four days throughout the year," said Jay D. Vogt, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society, headquartered at the center. "We have expanded hours in the summer to better serve working individuals and visitors to the Pierre community. We will be going back to our regular hours after Labor Day, and we will continue to offer free admission to the museum on the first Sunday of each month."

Currently featured in the Hogen Gallery is the award-winning exhibit *Our South Dakota:* Big Land/Big Ideas/Big Heart. Our South Dakota incorporates many hands-on activities into a whimsical and fun environment for informally learning all about the state. Visitors can view a buffalo hunt diorama, walk through a tipi and try their hand at milking a model cow in *The South Dakota Experience*, featured in the museum's primary gallery.

The archives research room will not be open this Saturday. Usual public hours for the archives are 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT, Monday-Friday and the first Saturday of each month.

For more information, call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov

-30-

The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.